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International Patent Application No. PCT/NO2004/000188
STOKKE AS
Reply to Written Opinion

Dear Sir or Madam,

Reference is made to the Written Opinion of 18.10.2005 in the above identified application.

The Examiner is of the opinion that the present invention only differs from D1 in that a friction element is introduced in order to increase friction, a solution which is considered obvious for the person skilled in the art.

To overcome D1, the claims are amended by introducing the features of former claims 2-4 into claim 1. The present claimed subject matter therefore differs from the D1 by comprising a spring (8), and a friction element (5) having a friction pattern corresponding to the friction pattern (7) on the stem (2). These two last features more than increases the friction between the two corresponding parts, it actually locks the parts together. Applying excess force or weight on the module/seat (3) will not budge the locking device. The device will in fact break due to material exhaustion before sliding, if enough force is applied, and will have to be replaced.

In addition, the spring (8) has two functions. In an open position of handle (6), the spring (8) may press the friction element (5) slightly towards the pattern (7) on the stem (2), in such a way that the two elements always are in correct lockable positions in relation to each other. By operating the device, the user will hear a "click-click" sound as the friction element (5) passes form one lockable position to the next on the stem (2). This feature is not obvious for a person skilled in the art and provides a guaranteed locking of the locking device whenever the handle (6) is turned to the locked position. Further, in the locked position, the handle (6) is firmly held in position by the spring action of the spring (3), in the present embodiment a leaf spring as shown in fig. 3. As D1 lacks both a spring (3) and

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a friction element (5), the introduction of a friction element only would mean that the friction element or the pressing block (62) would need to have elastic properties, which in turn would not provide secure locking of the locking device, such as in the present invention.

It is therefore evident, that even by introducing a friction pattern in the device of D1, the same effect is not achieved.

Further, the release of the locking mechanism in D1 is performed by the rotation of the upper bracket (6) and bracket seat (61) and by the rotation of the lower bracket (7) and support base (71). The upper bracket (6) is obviously intended to hold the top part of a golf bag, and the lower bracket (7) to support the bag from underneath. In D1, the golf bag must therefore be removed in order to adjust the two brackets, whereas in the present invention the handle (6) is independent of the module/seal (3). This provides the important advantage of enabling the height adjustment of the bracket with a seat, simply by operating the lever, without having to removing a child from seat, or rotating the module attached to the bracket.

In fact, the purpose of D1 is not to height adjust the position of the golf bag it is intended to carry, but rather to provide a golf cart that is easy to assemble and avoid using fastening screws, cf. column 1, lines 55-61. The lower bracket (7) would during use of the cart rest on the lower cover (50) in a lower position, which would be the preferred position of the golf bag, and the upper bracket (6) would be adjusted to a suitable position to fasten the top of the golf bag preventing it from falling off the cart. There is virtually no need for the brackets of D1 to have any substantial locking effect. There would therefore be no incitement for the person skilled in the art to improve the locking devices of D1.

The present invention according to the new claims 1 and 2 therefore contains inventive step over D1.

Yours faithfully,
OSLO PATENTKONTOR AS

Encl:
Demand
Amended claims

P a t e n t C l a i m s
(Amended 2 December 2005)

1. Locking device (1) for height adjustment of a module, such as a children's seat (3) on a stem (2) in a trolley or
5 a chair, the locking device (1) comprises a movable casing (4) which partly or completely surrounds the stem (2), a handle (5) rotating eccentrically in order to provide tension and friction against the stem (2),

characterized in that

10 - a friction element (5) is arranged between the handle (6) and the stem (2);

- a spring (8) is arranged between the handle (6) and the friction element (5);

15 - the stem (2) being equipped with a friction pattern (7), such as grooves or indents; and

- the friction element (5) having a pattern corresponding to the friction pattern (7) on the stem (2).

2. Locking device (1) according to claim 1,
20 **characterized in that** the locking device (1) is an integrated part of a seat (3) or a bracket thereto.

3. Footrest (20) for a children's seat (3),
characterized in that it is comprised of two rails (21), possibly connected to a foot plate, which is received in
25 guides (22) integrated in the seat, such that the footrest (20) may be displaced telescopically in relation to the seat.

4. Footrest (20) according to claim 3,
characterized in that the guides (22) are provided with

locks (23), such as a friction or hole-and-pin system, which may lock the rails (21) at different positions.

5. Telescopic footrest (20) according to the claims 3 or 4,

5 **characterized in that** the locks (23) are spring-loaded friction locks, allow the footrest 20 to be adjusted upwards by only sliding it, but which still prevents the footrest from slipping down.

6. Telescopic footrest (20) according to any of the
10 claims 3-5,

characterized in that the locks (23) are operated by handles (24) which release the footrest (20).

7. Telescopic footrest (20) according to claims 3-6,
characterized in that there is an opening between the rails
15 (21) allowing the rails to pass on either side of a stem (2).